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Edited by H. Bekemeier and R. Hirschelmann

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This specialised volume contains 23 research papers given at an inflammation colloquium in July 1981 at the Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg. Although it is very interesting to be able to get a clear picture of what is going on in inflammation research in East Germany, I doubt whether this book will have a terribly wide appeal. One reason is that much of the work — though by no means all — seems fairly unimaginative, or at least rather dated.

In the section on Pharmacology there are several papers on structure–activity relationships of various non-steroidal anti-inflammatory compounds with emphasis on rat paw oedema and adjuvant arthritis models, as well as a couple of contributions on the pharmacokinetics of aminophenazone and indomethacin. This all appears pretty old hat, but should be of interest to those concerned with NSAID development. The Biochemistry section is also devoted mainly to these inflamma-

tion models with reference to action of catalase, excretion of catecholamine metabolites and acute phase proteins. The two pages on hormonal effects on acute phase proteins and failure on RNA and protein synthesis inhibitors to modify them raise some interesting questions. The final 5 papers are grouped into an Immunology section and concern lymphocyte activation by inflammatory mediators, drug effects on passive cutaneous anaphylaxis, macrophage migration using leucocytes from tubercular patients and a discussion of the value of antigen-induced rabbit arthritis as a paradigm for rheumatoid arthritis.

In conclusion, this volume will have only limited appeal and is not suitable as an introduction to the subject for students or intending researchers. However, it may have some value to research groups in the field.

Robin Hoult